

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 35, 37, 38, 40, and 43 are amended. Claims 1-34, 41, 42, and 46-50 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 35-40 and 43-45 are pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449, and four cited references were submitted on July 30, 2001 and received in the Patent Office on August 2, 2001. Applicant has not, however, received an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 from the Patent Office. A copy of the previously submitted Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 are being submitted with this Amendment. Copies of the four cited references are not included because they were previously submitted to and received in the Patent Office. However, if additional copies of the four cited references are needed, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney for copies of the references.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 43-45 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As part of this Response, claim 43 has been amended to incorporate the elements of claim 34 (its base claim) as well as intervening claim 42. Claims 44 and 45 depend from claim

43. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 43-45 are in condition for allowance.

Additionally, claims 35-40, which previously depended from claim 34, have been amended to depend from claim 43. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 35-40 are also in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

As part of this Response, the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103 have either been canceled or amended to include elements of an allowable claim. These cancellations and amendments have been made in order to expedite issuance of the allowable claims. These cancellations and amendments have not been made to overcome, and should not be interpreted as having been made to overcome, the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in one or more continuation applications.

Amendments to the Specification


The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added to the specification.

Conclusion

Claims 35-40 and 43-45 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

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